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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1429th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 June 2023

**On the ongoing crimes by the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policies of the
Western alliance countries to escalate tensions**

Mr. Chairperson,

The puppet Kyiv regime, controlled by aggressive NATO countries, continues to reject the initiatives of the majority of the world aimed at the speedy resolution of the Ukrainian conflict on the basis of the current realities, and at achieving sustainable peace, taking into account the legitimate interests of the sovereign States of the region.

A delegation of Heads of State from South Africa, Senegal, Zambia and the Comoros, the country currently chairing the African Union, visited Kyiv on 16 June, accompanied by high representatives from Egypt, Uganda and the Republic of the Congo. In the hope of contributing to regional and global security, they offered specific proposals for resolving the existing differences. Their ideas were flatly rejected by the Kyiv regime. An attempt to hinder African countries from fully carrying out their mission was also made in Poland, where members of the delegation of the Republic of South Africa on board the government plane, including security personnel and journalists, were subjected to humiliating searches, as a result of which they were unable to disembark the aircraft and accompany their President on the trip to Ukraine

Moreover, in the best traditions of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's team, when the African leaders were on the banks of the Dnieper, another Russian missile strike on Kyiv was staged, and the presidents were advised to take cover. However, these cheap spectacles performed by former actors of the cabaret studio Kvartal 95 will only impress their Western handlers: for some reason they regularly take place precisely when foreign leaders are in Kyiv.

The African delegation was not impressed by the simulation. South African presidential spokesperson Vincent Magvenya, who did not go into hiding, said: "We did not see or hear any explosions after we arrived in Kyiv or while we were travelling through the Kyiv region. Nor did we hear any air-raid sirens. I did not head down to the shelter, but my President was urged to do so." By the way, no "incoming strikes" were reported in the city that day by the Kyiv municipal authorities either.

Anyway, the African leaders' proposals were rejected. As for the other settlement initiatives, back in April 2022, representatives of the Kyiv regime who had taken part in the consultations in Homiel and

Istanbul unilaterally refused to complete them and to continue working on the text of the draft agreement on ending the conflict and on security guarantees that they themselves had initialled.

In early 2023, Ukraine refused to meaningfully address the Chinese position on the Ukrainian crisis formulated in February, and the Kyiv regime dared to criticize it – through the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Andrii Yermak – only after the United States of America and the United Kingdom publicly refused to seriously consider China’s proposals for achieving regional stability.

The publicly announced initiatives of States from other continents and regions have also been rejected by Ukraine. On 11 June, Mykhailo Podolyak, adviser to the Presidential Office, said that in the current circumstances “there is no such thing as an Indonesian, Brazilian or African basis [for negotiation]”.

So, the desire of the real majority of the international community for a just peace in the light of the Ukrainian conflict has been rejected. The Kyiv regime is dutifully fulfilling the role of “lamb to the slaughter” that NATO has prepared for it, seeking to push as many mobilized civilians into the grave as possible. The objectives are clear: what is needed is not a just peace, but an attempt to fulfil the pipe dreams of a number of Western countries to inflict a “strategic defeat” on Russia. Ukraine’s role in this game is that of a “bargaining chip”, nothing more.

All this fits in with the Western strategy of weakening our country through a “war down to the last inhabitant of Ukraine”. While the NATO puppets in Kyiv regularly declare their goal to “destroy Russia as a country” (head of Ukraine’s National Security and Defence Council Oleksii Danilov) and “kill Russians everywhere” (chief of the Kyiv regime’s Main Intelligence Directorate Kyrylo Budanov), their puppet masters in the West realize that in reality it is impossible to defeat Russia militarily. The desired objective is to weaken our country at any cost, not least through the Ukrainian conflict, in order to foster internal socio-political destabilization. However, it has long been clear that the West’s actions only serve to further consolidate Russian society.

These comments explain quite clearly what motivates the United States, the United Kingdom and other governments to push Zelenskyy’s formations to intensify hostilities instead of seeking a political and diplomatic settlement that takes into account the realities. The announcements of an offensive deep into Russian territory in Donbas and the Dnieper Lowland come in fact from NATO capitals, as do promises of new arms deliveries and training of military personnel. The hope seems to be that by the time of the NATO summit on 11 and 12 July this year, the Ukrainian followers of Symon Petliura and Stepan Bandera will be able to achieve at least some military “victories”.

The fact that the Ukrainians are nothing more than expendable material for the West in the geopolitical confrontation with Russia was confirmed by a recent statement by Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh. At a briefing on 20 June, she spoke directly about the Ukrainian armed forces’ offensive, I quote: “We know this is going to be a hard fight. [...] And we have accounted for losses. We know there are going to be losses on the battlefield.” In other words, as part of military planning in Washington, D.C., losses of Zelenskyy’s formations on the battlefield have simply – and I quote again – been “accounted for”. In other words, the destinies and lives of Ukrainians have not been decided in Kyiv.

The consequences of the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam by Zelenskyy’s formations continue to be dealt with. According to the authorities, over 8,000 people have been evacuated from the flooded settlements on the left bank of the Dnieper. Preliminary estimates put direct material damage in these territories at more than 40 billion roubles.

With the support of the Chairmanship of North Macedonia, a special meeting of the Economic and Environmental Committee of the OSCE Permanent Council was hastily convened on 19 June. We were all

witness to the attempt to disrupt the regular work of the Committee, to give it an attributive function, and to turn it into a platform for settling political scores. We stress the inadmissibility of pushing a confrontational agenda and involving the Committee in territorial status issues.

We emphasize that the actions of the current OSCE Chairmanship, which encourages all this, are effectively devaluing our Organization and its structures. In accordance with its mandate, the OSCE, which was established in order to overcome complex tensions between States, cannot and should not serve as an instrument for promoting the geopolitical agenda of a group of countries belonging to one politico-military bloc.

As for the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant itself, we recall the document we circulated at the OSCE (SEC.DEL/229/23/Rev.1) with a chronology of the systematic shelling of the plant infrastructure by Kyiv regime formations. It is worth remembering the words of the Kyiv regime's Minister of Defence Oleksii Reznikov, uttered on 2 May 2023, more than a month before the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam was destroyed. Discussing how Ukrainian formations could operate around Zaporozhye, he said: "Suppose something happens to a hydroelectric or nuclear plant, there will be risks for the population, and it will require immediate attention from the government, the accumulation of resources, including the military." According to Mr. Reznikov, such a course of action could force the Russian troops in the zone of the special military operation to cease any hostilities.

Once more, in the absence of success on the battlefield, the Kyiv regime has declared through its officials that it is ready to provoke a disaster involving critical civilian energy infrastructure in the hope of influencing the dynamics of the combat operations. As we can see, the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam in the early hours of 6 June was one element of this tactic by the Kyiv regime. In that connection, it is interesting to note the joyful report by Nataliia Humeniuk, spokesperson for Operational Command South of the Ukrainian armed forces, that Russian troops had had to withdraw from the flood-affected territories.

This week, the words of the head of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Kyiv regime's Ministry of Defence, Kyrylo Budanov, caused a considerable stir. In a telethon broadcast on 20 June he claimed that the Russian military had booby-trapped the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP) and the plant's cooling pond. Given the actions around the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, such statements leave no doubt: the Kyiv regime is aiming at provocation around the Zaporizhzhia NPP. We strongly warn against attempts to disrupt the operation of this critical infrastructure facility through military and other provocations.

One further point. On 4 June this year, as we know, Zelenskyy's formations started active operations along the combat line. Despite attempts to attack Russian positions using foreign armoured vehicles and tanks, the attacks were repelled. The Kyiv regime's reliance on foreign "Wunderwaffen" (miracle weapons) is not paying off. The images of destroyed German Leopards, French light wheeled tanks and US armoured vehicles have been circulated around the world. Several foreign vehicles abandoned by the Ukrainian armed forces have been sent for further examination by Russian specialists. Their weaknesses will be taken into account in future combat operations.

On 15 and 16 June, the NATO Ministers of Defence met in Brussels, and a meeting of the Ramstein-format group dealing with military supplies for the Kyiv regime was also held. In their efforts to expedite arms deliveries, NATO countries should realize that further interference in the Ukrainian conflict will make their own situation worse, not least with regard to the image of Western armaments. As Russia has warned, the equipment sent will be burned and destroyed on the battlefield. This is already happening now and will continue until all the objectives of the Russian special operation are achieved.

As for the European countries that have rushed to join the first ranks of military sponsors of the Kyiv regime, they obviously need to reflect on what they are being dragged into by their Atlantic partners and allies. The German authorities and Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz personally decided to approve the delivery of the German Leopards only after the United States guaranteed to send US Abrams tanks. But the Abrams never made it to the combat line, while the burned-out Leopards were destroyed by Russian weapons in the fields of Ukraine, just as they were eighty years ago. The United States seems ready to pull the same trick with aircraft, speculating about deliveries of F-16 fighter jets to the Kyiv regime.

Against this background, Zelenskyy's formations continue systematic shelling of peaceful towns and cities in Donbas and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions. In the Kherson region alone, according to local authorities, after the water level in the Kakhovka reservoir dropped, the number of attacks on civilian objects exceeded two hundred a day. On 19 June, a strike from a US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system destroyed a humanitarian warehouse in Volnovakha (Donetsk People's Republic) as people were receiving humanitarian aid. An attack on the Druzhba oil pipeline was repelled. Civilians continue to suffer as a result of the regular artillery and rocket attacks by Zelenskyy's formations, with people being killed and injured.

Some European countries have already begun to realize that continuing direct and indirect involvement in the military conflict on the side of the Kyiv regime is fraught with negative consequences. The Polish authorities, for example, hastily disowned the combatants of the so-called "Polish Volunteer Corps" who took part in the terrorist raid on peaceful villages in the Belgorod region on 22 May this year as members of units bearing the insignia of the Kyiv regime. Solidarity, a watchword in Poland, is becoming less and less evident with regard to the Kyiv regime. According to a recent opinion poll conducted by the University of Warsaw, since January 2023 (that is, in just six months) the proportion of Poles in favour of supporting Zelenskyy has dropped by a third, from 62 to 42 per cent. The number of those who view such assistance positively has fallen from 47 to 35 per cent. Over a quarter of the Poles surveyed are against military supplies to the Kyiv regime. In other words, a growing proportion of people realize that without their Government's complicity in the killing of Russians and Ukrainians on our soil, security in Europe would only improve.

The collective West demonstrates its powerlessness in various ways. For example, the European Union recently agreed on an 11th package of anti-Russian restrictive measures, thereby acknowledging that the other ten packages have not yielded the desired results. The Russian economy has withstood and adapted to external economic shocks. While the European economy is entering a recession, our country is expected to see tangible economic growth this year, even according to the estimates of international financial institutions controlled by the West.

Finally, NATO's policy of deliberately escalating tensions in the Ukrainian conflict is clearly very dangerous and poses new threats. But the expectation that our country will succumb to this pressure is fundamentally flawed. Russia has all the resources and capacities needed to successfully complete the special operation and achieve all its stated objectives.

The actions of our adversaries seeking to prolong the conflict and destabilize the situation inside our country will ultimately fail. They are incapable of influencing the resolve and will of the peoples of Russia to strengthen the sovereignty, unity and security of our State, to uphold a world order based on international law, and to oppose attempts to impose instead some kind of rules-based world order, not least as no one has ever seen an exhaustive list of the "rules".

Thank you for your attention.